

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF 1ST SERGEANT CHRISTOPHER COFFIN

HON. TOM MALINOWSKI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize 1st Sergeant Christopher Coffin, who tragically lost his life serving his country during Operation Iraq Freedom.

1st Sergeant Chris Coffin was assigned to the 352nd Civil Affairs Battalion when the vehicle he was traveling in was forced off the road by insurgents on July 1, 2003. He died that day protecting a convoy that had travelled from Kuwait to Baghdad.

Sgt. Coffin was born in Branchburg, New Jersey in 1951 and spent most of his childhood there. In 1978, while attending Rider University in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, he met his wife, Betsy. The two of them shared a love for the outdoors, and would frequently travel together to ski the Rocky Mountains.

Chris was also a National Park Ranger, serving at Gettysburg National Military Park, Pennsylvania and at Mount Rainier National Park, Washington. At Mount Rainier, he was a climbing ranger and was responsible for saving the lives of many injured or trapped visitors. He took such pride in the daily raising and lowering of our nation's flag at the Paradise Ranger Station that his friends, even to this day, remember the huge smile beaming on Chris' face as he walked to the flagpole.

Chris was a loving husband, a proud serviceman who always took care of his soldiers, a National Park Ranger who led search and rescue missions to save the lives of park visitors, and a friend to everyone who was fortunate to have met him.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in recognizing the life of 1st Sergeant Christopher Coffin.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT H. PETERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, on Roll Call No. 281 On Agreeing to the Amendment, I am mistakenly recorded as a NAY.

I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 281. I oppose the transfer of military equipment to local law enforcement departments.

TAIWAN NATIONAL DAY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I'm grateful for the opportunity to ac-

knowledge October 10th as Taiwan's 110th National Day, greatly appreciated as Double Ten Day. This year is special to me as the 40th birthday of my son, Julian Dusenbury Wilson.

Taiwan serves as a beacon of freedom and an indispensable strategic partner of the United States in the Indo-Pacific, and the special people-to-people relationships further enrich our lives every day. A few examples of these rewarding ties include:

Trade in U.S. goods and services with Taiwan was nearly \$104 billion in 2019.

Trade and investment with Taiwan support over 373,000 American jobs.

Taiwan is the seventh largest source of international students in the U.S., and

Taiwan is my state of South Carolina's tenth largest export market with billion-dollar investments in South Carolina industry creating jobs.

My lifelong appreciation of the people of Chinese heritage was inspired by my father, 1st Lt. Hugh deV. Wilson, U.S. Army Air Corps, 14th Air Force, with the Flying Tigers. He developed an affection for the people of China while serving to protect the citizens of Chengdu, Xi'an, and Kunming in 1944.

I am pleased that the United States and Taiwan remain close allies, and I would like to again wish the people of Taiwan a Happy Double Ten Day.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMVETS POST 114

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize AMVETS Post 114 of Elk Rapids, Michigan, for its 75 years of service to Veterans, their families, and their local community. Through their tireless work, Post 114 has become an indispensable part of Northern Michigan.

As soldiers returned home from the battlefields of World War II, many recognized the need for a nationwide group advocating on behalf of our Veterans—in response, American Veterans (AMVETS) of World War II was founded on December 10, 1944. Shortly after, President Harry Truman and Congress officially chartered AMVETS in 1947. Throughout its 75 years of service, AMVETS Post 114 have worked tirelessly to support and advocate for meaningful policies on behalf of local servicemembers, Veterans, and their families. From scholarships for local students to organizing Military Funeral Honors, the efforts of Post 114 have assisted thousands of Michigan Veterans and ensured the people of Elk Rapids and Northern Michigan honor the service and sacrifice of our Veterans.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize AMVETS Post 114 for decades of successful support for the Veterans of Northern Michigan. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing

the First District is home to such dedicated citizens. On behalf of my constituents, I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

THANKING MR. KEVIN HARRIS FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, on his retirement in September 2021, I rise today to thank Kevin Harris for over 37 years of outstanding service to the House of Representatives as a distinguished wood finisher.

Kevin Harris first came to the Capitol as a 15-year-old to work on the grounds crew with the Architect of the Capitol on the Senate side. He was lucky enough to have an aunt who worked for the then Congressman Walter E. Fauntroy, who later hired him on the House side. He started working with the House restaurant system in 1984, which was eventually contracted out. He was able to secure a position with the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Labor Room, now known as CAO, Office of Logistics & Support. Kevin worked for the logistics department for three years, where he remembers being mentored by Bobby Small, Lew Maiden and Steve Janifer, who showed him the ropes.

Later, it was determined that since he had gone to trade school, Kevin would be a good addition to the finishing shop and he made the move when a position opened. Back then, the finishing shop not only finished the furniture but also moved the furniture between offices. Some of his most memorable bosses were Mr. Kelleher, who hired him into the shop, Walter "Teenie" Woodburn and Robert Lee.

One his most memorable pieces was a special gold leafing project he completed with the staff on a bookcase for Representative William Clay. He had learned this technique through special training on this intricate skill. Kevin recalls a table he finished for Speaker Tip O'Neill, a very special stripping technique using the "old style" to strip down the finish. The Speaker was most appreciative. Kevin was also among the staff who refurbished the entire House floor, stripping the chairs and seats in the House Chamber, caked with shellac from years of usage.

In his long career in the halls of Congress, Kevin has personally met five Speakers of the House—Speaker Tom Foley, Speaker John Boehner, Speaker Tip O'Neill, Speaker Jim Wright, and Speaker Paul Ryan. Kevin has also reflected on the many lifelong friendships he has made in his office, including Timothy "Tim" Magruder and Vincent Plowden, who all motivated each other on the job. He has also made special mention of his favorite and current manager, John Garcia, who came into the shop and really heard their concerns, made the necessary changes and motivated the crew. He felt that Mr. Garcia really cared

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